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AGRICULTURE-LIVESTOCK MINISTERS HOLD MEETING

PA051509 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo will open the 27th meeting of the inter-American regional committee against plant and animal diseases today at the Inter-American Institute of Agriculture Sciences [IICA]. Agriculture and livestock ministers from Central America, Panama, Mexico and the Dominican Republic will attend the meeting and analyze plant and animal diseases occurring in their countries. A convention will also be signed between IICA and the Costa Rican Agriculture and Livestock Ministry to boost local agricultural centers.

The visiting agriculture ministers will meet President Carazo today at 0900 to discuss regional agricultural and livestock policies. The government wants to coordinate these activities with other nations, standardize systems and outline policies.

ECONOMY MINISTERS TO TAKE UNITED ENERGY STANCE

PA031702 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2040 GMT 2 Dec 79 PA

[Text] San Jose, 2 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--The Central American economy ministers, meeting yesterday in this capital, agreed to present a common front at the next assembly of the Latin American Energy Organization (OLADE), which will be held in Panama in mid-December.

Costa Rican Economy Minister Fernando Altmann proposed the meeting primarily to become acquainted with his new Central American counterparts. The meeting was informal and no official agenda was discussed. According to Altmann, it was important that this meeting be held because contact witn his colleagues had been interrupted since the victory of the Sandinist revolution in Nicaragua.

The minister agreed it is advisable to sign bilateral treaties with organizations and countries outside the isthmus, such as the EEC and the Latin American Free Trade Association.

It was decided to hold a new meeting with a formal agenda in the near future. The Central American economy ministers left today for their respective countries.

CUBAN DELEGATE ADDRESSES EDUCATION MINISTERS MEETING

FL070052 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Dec 79 FL

[Text] Today Cuba has stated that it is time for Latin American unity to struggle against the misery, malnutrition, diseases and illiteracy which is suffered by millions of human beings on the continent. This statement is in the address today by Cuban Education Minister Asela de los Santos at the fifth regional meeting of education ministers which is being held at the headquarters of the Mexican Foreign Relations Secretariat.

Asela de los Santos stated that the statements made at this meeting by the various education ministers confirm that the region has become aware that these hopes should become reality so that the fraternal peoples of the Latin American continent will soon be able to have the right to fully enjoy the dignity and pride of calling themselves men. The minister stated that for many years now Cuba has been actively and modestly participating in this endeavor. It does not spare any effort in sending teachers, professors, doctors and technicians to more than 20 countries.

COB REASSERTS REJECTION OF GOVERNMENT MEASURES

PY011701 La Paz INFOBOL Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 2025 GMT 6 Dec 79 PY

[Text] In a general meeting held yesterday, the Bolivian Labor Central [COB] decided to reassert its rejection of the economic measures issued by the government. The COB announced that "it will continue to struggle until it achieves the repeal of those measures" and it warned that it will stay on alert and will resist any coup attempt."

In the resolution, the COB expresses its support for the peasant organizations that are on strike and are blocking the main La Paz roads to demand better prices for their products.

Furthermore, the COB reasserted its support to COB leaders, leaving them free to decide what guidelines to follow during an interview they will hold with President Lidia Gueiler Tejada.

EVACUATION OF COPACABANA PILGRIMS BEGINS

PY071404 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 7 Dec 79 PY

[Excerpts] Thanks to direct intervention by President Gueiler Tejada, the air force commander and the prefecture of La Paz Department, a group of 21 persons, including, has been evacuated from Copacabana. The blocking of roads and the strike of the rural workers continues, however, not only in Manco Kapac Province but also in the Yungas region, Huaqui, Cochabamba Department and also in Oruro Department.

Yesterday afternoon talks began regarding the evacuation of the pilgrims from Copacabana, and at the government palace the mediation of the president was announced as well as a number of steps to solve this serious problem. Later, at about 1630, an (Avara) plane of the Bolivian Air Force left for Copacabana for a reconnaissance, but it was able to land and evacuate about 36 people, according to the list published later. Capt (Victor Maldonado) of the Bolivian Air Force public relations office gave the following report on the arrival of the plane:

[Begin recording] We permit ourselves to report the following to the public: On instructions from the air force commander, obeying an explicit order by the president, the air transport group has started an airlift to Copacabana this afternoon in order to cooperate in the evacuation of the people who cannot return to their homes because of the roadblock problem. This afternoon an (Arava) plane of the air transport group made a flight carrying 1,500 kg of foodstuffs and medicines. The plane succeeded in landing despite the poor state of the airstrip, and tomorrow at 0800 as many flights as necessary will begin to transport the people who are there. This afternoon on the return flight the plane brought 21 people here, 15 adults and five children [as heard], according to the pilot. [end recording]

Capt (Victor Maldonado) asserted that air force helicopters will start flights to Tiquina early this morning to evacuate the people who are there, at the same time bringing foodstuffs, medicines, etc. Later, (Roland Vizcarra), our special correspondent, gave a special report from Copacabana:

[Begin recording] The Copacabana inhabitants have told us that when the pilgrims have been evacuated the town will be defenseless and the infuriated peasants, still in a belligerent frame of mind, will then try a new attack, similar to the one they made a few days ago. That is the situation now and we will give a further report at any time. [end recording]

A commission has been organized which left this morning for Copacabana. The commission formed by representatives of the peasant federation, the peasant confederation, the Red Cross of La Paz Department and the Permanent Human Rights Assembly which left yesterday could not go farther than Huarina. Upon their return, the commission members stated that the stubbornness of the peasants is the main factor hindering any kind of negotiation and, furthermore, that they refuse to listen to any appeal to commonsense.

PEASANTS BLOCK ROADS IN YUNGAS REGION

PY071405 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 7 Dec 79 PY

[Excerpts] Peasants of the Sud Yungas region have blocked the roads connecting that area with La Paz City and surrounding towns to protest the recent economic measures adopted by the government. This has been reported from Chulumani by the local radio station, Radio Yungas. Other peasant groups have announced their solidarity with their comrades in Chulumani, Radio Yungas says. The station also reports that a protest demonstration was held in Chulumani yesterday, Thursday. The rally was peaceful and no acts of violence took place.

ROAD MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL GO ON STRIKE

PY071714 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 7 Dec 79 PY

[Text] The Labor Union Federation of the National Road Service [state organization for road maintenance] reports that it has voted total support of the Bolivian Labor Central [COB] and the stand it has taken in defense of the working class. The workers of the National Road Service throughout the nation declare themselves on strike as of 0000 on Friday, 7 December. The document concludes by saying that they will begin a general indefinite strike as of Monday, 17 December, unless the economic demands of the sector are met.

HUMAN RIGHTS ASSEMBLY SUPPORTS PEASANT DEMANDS

PY071503 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 7 Dec 79 PY

[Text] The Bolivian Permanent Human Rights Assembly has released a communique related to the events taking place in the towns of Copacabana and Tiquina because of the blocking of the highway and the isolation of hundreds of tourists. Due to the importance of the document we will reproduce its full text:

[Begin recording] 1. The action of the Human Rights Assembly has an exclusively humanitarian purpose and has no intention of breaking through the roadblocks set up by the peasants in pursuance of their just demands.

2. The Human Rights Assembly believes the struggle of the peasant class to be totally just, since no type of compensation has been contemplated for that class in view of the consequences of the economic measures decreed by the government. The peasant class is therefore the social sector which is most harmed at the present time.

3. For these reasons the Human Rights Assembly believes that the solution to the problem posed by the roadblocks should be sought through a reconsideration of the whole economic problem on the part of the government to meet the just claims by workers, peasants and all the working class.

This communique is signed for the national executive committee by Finance Secretary (Delia Cortes). [end recording]

LA PAZ STILL WITHOUT PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

PY072228 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 7 Dec 79 PY

[Excerpts] For the third consecutive day the people of La Paz are experiencing a lack of public transportation in the midst of general protests and condemnations. Street disorders have disappeared, and although it seems that activities are returning to normal, there is no indication that public transportation services will be renewed, thus ending the stoppage, which has been very harmful to the population.

The people have asked officials to not only guarantee the normal operation of this expensive public transportation system but also to force the entire system to resume its activities immediately. They said that it is inconceivable that the drivers union and the bus owners, who call themselves unionists and sensitive to the needs of the population, should have their own way and obstruct the movement of residents in a city of more than 700,000 people.

Municipal vehicles are providing free transportation to permit people to move from one area to another, but this is not enough, and there is a need for other government organizations, including the armed forces, to provide people with transportation.

PEASANT LEADERSHIP ORDERS TEMPORARY LIFTING OF ROADBLOCKS

PY072259 La Paz Radio Panamericana in Spanish 2225 GMT 7 Dec 79 PY

[Text] During a press conference peasant leader Genaro Flores announced that it has been decided to end the peasant strike that is in progress all over the country. In this regard, leader Genaro Flores said the following at a press conference:

[Begin Flores recording] To call an emergency national meeting for next Monday at 0900 in this city. [sentence as heard] in order to permit the normal supply of food to the urban, mining and other centers, the peasant national congress has decided to temporarily lift the road blockade in the entire national territory. [end recording]

As you all heard, the Single Peasant Confederation has decided to lift the strike it was conducting in order to supply the country with agricultural products.

PEASANTS CONTINUE TO BLOCK COPACABANA ROADS

PY081850 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 Dec 79 PY

[Text] The peasants who are blocking the La Paz-Copacabana road have reportedly stated that they demand to see the document signed by the Single Peasant Confederation and the Bolivian Labor Central to lift the blockade. As long as this does not happen, the situation will remain as it is and the peasants will continue to block the roads and besiege Copacabana, Tiquina and other towns. This was announced by a member of the Bolivian radio club who was in contact with the pilgrims.

According to the last telephone report by newsman (Rolando Vizcarra) about 0930, a convoy of over 300 vehicles was preparing to leave Copacabana via the Peruvian town of Yungugyo in order to continue on the Desaguadero Road. According to reports by radio club members, it is essential that peasant leaders go to the various places where the roadblocks are being maintained and display the document putting an end to this protracted and difficult situation.

We can also report that a Peruvian train will leave Guaqui to evacuate the families in that port which were taken there by the steamer Inca. According to executives of the National Railway Enterprise, which is generously cooperating in the evacuation of the families besieged by the peasants in Tiquina and surrounding towns.

STRIKING PEASANTS DETAIN TRAIN EVACUATING FAMILIES

PY081855 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 8 Dec 79 PY

[Text] The Arica-La Paz international train has been detained in the town of Comanche by peasants who are still maintaining a blockade in that region in protest of the economic measures adopted by Mrs Lidia Gueiler Tejada's constitutional government. The train arrived at Comanche at 0400 this morning and was immediately stopped by peasants obeying instructions by the strike committee and rural leaders in Comanche, Pacajes Province, at the head of 25 labor organizations. By this measure the peasants of this part of the country are protesting and categorically rejecting the temporary lifting of the agrarian strike, decided by the Single Bolivian Peasant Confederation.

A telegram has been sent to Radio Panamericana which says, among other things: The peasants of Comanche Canton, Pacajes Province, comprising 25 union organizations, categorically reject the decision to temporarily lift the strike made by the Single Bolivian Peasant Confederation, since it is a mockery of the genuine aspirations and interests of the peasants.

The telegram then says: We demand the immediate presence of the leaders of the Bolivian Labor Central, the Single Bolivian Peasant Confederation, the Pacajes sector of truckers and the government in order to explain the causes of the conflict while the strike is even more strictly observed and, particularly, while the international trains of the La Paz-Arica railway are detained. The telegram is signed by the strike committee and agrarian leaders of Comanche in Pacajes Province.

COB CALLS 24-HOUR STRIKE TO BEGIN 10 DEC

PY080117 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Dec 79 PY

[Excerpt] The Bolivian Labor Central, COB, ordered a 24-hour general strike in the entire country as of 0000 Monday, 10 December, in support of the just claims of the peasants. The decision was made as part of a policy of support for the workers in the face of the economic measures ordered by the government, which affects the majority of the people in the country. The COB National Executive Committee has also decided to call on all its affiliated members to remain alert to any instruction regarding the strike.

GOVERNMENT, LABOR CENTRAL REACH AGREEMENTS

PY081318 La Paz INFOBOL Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 0410 GMT 8 Dec 79 PY

[Text] The government decided last night to decrease the 30 percent authorized increment for interprovincial fares and freight charges in an effort to solve the acute problem faced by the peasant sector. It also decided to set new prices for fuel: 2.50 Bolivian pesos for regular gasoline, 5 Bolivian pesos for extra gasoline, and 6 Bolivian pesos for premium gasoline. The decisions were made after 12 long hours of discussion between the government and leaders of the Bolivian Labor Central. The government and the COB reached five points of agreement which were set down in a document and which will be made known today.

PRESIDENT DEPLORES POSITION TAKEN BY CONGRESS

PY081258 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 8 Dec 79 PY

[Text] President Lidia Gueiler Tejada has made a fervent appeal for the defense of the present democratic process, which is seriously threatened. The appeal was made when she received a group of housewives at the government palace. The president exhorted the Congress, the Bolivian Labor Central and the people in general to desist from stubborn stands and cooperate with the government in the defense and continuation of the democratic process and the implementation of solutions to the serious economic and social crisis the country is now facing.

Mrs Gueiler also said that the position maintained by Congress regarding a formal questioning [interpelacion] far from contributes to the solution and pacification of the serious conflicts the country is suffering and only endangers what the Bolivian people have so strongly defended--the democratization of the country. She then deplored the regrettable attitude of the members of the Chamber of Deputies who have decided on a formal questioning of the cabinet. She said that she believes the entire executive branch acted responsibly and seriously when it adopted the economic measures which were approved recently.

WORK STOPPAGES THREATEN TIN PRODUCTION GOALS

PY071718 La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1130 GMT 7 Dec 79 PY

[Text] The normal operation of the Vinto metallurgic plant in Oruro Department is threatened with suspension because of a shortage of tin concentrates. This situation is a result of the present crisis facing the country, mainly through the strike declared by the transporters and the blocking of roads by peasant sectors.

According to reports received by the general management of the National Smelting Enterprise [ENAF], the shortage of concentrates has reached a highly critical point which has seriously affected the foundry work at the furnaces. The ENAF technical management has immediately given instructions that necessary steps be taken to maintain the temperature of the furnaces until the delivery of concentrates becomes normal. Otherwise all the furnaces would gradually come to a standstill. The ENAF technical manager concluded by reporting that the planned production goal for this year, 19,600 metric tons of tin, cannot be met because of the factors which have hindered the normal operations of the Vinto plant.

PRESIDENT ROLDOS ANNOUNCES NEW CABINET APPOINTMENTS

PA100409 Paris AFP in Spanish 0331 GMT 10 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Quito, 9 Dec (AFP)--Ecuadorean President Jaime Roldos Aguilera tonight appointed his cabinet, thus overcoming the cabinet crisis that arose 28 November. In the face of the Democratic Left's refusal to share administrative responsibilities in his government, the president advanced the formation of the presidential cabinet by 24 hours, counting on independent elements of qualified solvency and confirming others who were appointed on 10 August.

The Roldos cabinet was formed as follows:

Minister of:

Government	Roberto Dunn Barreiro (Confirmed)
Foreign Relations	Alfredo Pareja Diezcanseco (Confirmed) Independent
Education and Sports	Galo Garcia Feraud (Confirmed) Popular Democracy
Public Works and Telecommunications	Francisco Saa Chacon (Confirmed) Concentration of Popular Forces [CFP]
Finance and Public Credit	Fernando Aspiazu Seminario (Confirmed) Independent
Labor and Human Resources	Carlos Feraud Blum (Confirmed) Popular Democracy

The new officials are as follows:

Industries, Commerce and Integration	Germanico Salgado, who had been holding the post of manager of the Central Bank (Independent). He replaces Martin Manosalvas of CFP.
Resources and Energy	Jose Corsino Cardenas (Independent). He replaces Mauricio Davalos of CFP.
Agriculture and Livestock	Antonio Andrade Fajardo (CFP). He replaces Leonel Cedeno of the CFP.
Public Health	Humberto Guillen Murillo (CFP). He replaces Rodrigo Fierro (Independent).
Social Welfare	Ines Arrata de Sorroza (Independent).

Mauricio Davalos, the former minister of natural resources and energy, of the Popular Democracy, was appointed manager of the Central Bank of Ecuador.

Juan Pablo Moncagatta (Popular Democracy), will take the post of president of the National Housing Board. He replaces Edgardo Marmol of the same party.

The cabinet will assume office at noon on Monday at the palace.

Democratic Left Declines Participation

PA091459 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 9 Dec 79 PA

[Text] The Democratic Left [ID] has decided not to work directly with President Jaime Roldos Aguilera's administration. Its members will not be appointed to ministerial or to other high state offices. However, the ID promised to support the government in Congress.

The Government Ministry also released a communique stating that in view of the differences concerning the method of appointing ministers and other officials suggested by the ID, it has been impossible to appoint its members to those offices. Official documents note that yesterday the ID National Executive Council decided to reconsider its earlier decision to join President Roldos' cabinet and released the following statement:

In view of prevailing circumstances, the government decided to change its political stance and asked the ID to help formulate a political plan and monitor the work of the Agriculture Ministry and its agencies, the Social Welfare Ministry and its agencies, the National Development Bank system and the National Housing Board, including the Housing Bank. Following lengthy consultations with its provincial and grassroots bodies, the ID agreed to cooperate with the administration in those areas following the joint outlining of an ideological framework and program noting the social and economic goals to be achieved. The political crisis that began to endanger the democratic stability of the country led the ID to accept the government's proposal.

However, during the latest talks with the government, it has been impossible to agree on who should be appointed to government offices. The ID's choice of those people would have been a guarantee that the political plan agreed upon would be implemented. As a result of this impasse, the National Executive Council decided to reconsider its previous decision and abstain from participating in the new cabinet.

ROLDOS DEFENDS ADMINISTRATION AT QUITO CEREMONY

PA072018 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 7 Dec 79 PA

[Excerpts] President of the Republic Jaime Roldos has defended the work by his government in the past four months. He noted that the first step was securing constitutionality. He said a democracy still must be established. Roldos made a broad report on the administrative and political position of his government in a speech yesterday at a Quito municipal council ceremony marking the 445th anniversay of the city's founding by Spain.

The president said that governing does not mean simply managing a country as one's farm. He noted that governing implies a political philosophy. He said governing in our country at this moment demands creativeness, changes and decisions. He said the government has to clash with many vested interests but must do so if it is to be responsible. He regretted that some commentators are so far from the truth in their criticism and said it is most important to raise the level of political debates by discussing substantive matters and by getting rid of the bad habit of labeling people and events. He said a democratic life demands great social discipline and that he will not tolerate disorder and lack of respect. He said that the government has obeyed the mandate of the voters and that there should be harmony among state sectors, since all power is not vested in the chief of state.

EXECUTIVE BRANCH PROMULGATES 1980 BUDGET

PY040152 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 1 Dec 79 p 8 PY

[Text] The executive branch yesterday promulgated the general budget for 1980. Compared with the 1979 budget, the 1980 budget--which will go into effect on 1 January 1980--provides for a 25-percent increase for the central administration and a 39-percent increase for decentralized institutions.

The executive branch yesterday promulgated Law No 777, which approves the national budget for 1980. Article 1 of this law outlines the estimated income, distributed as follows: 53,490,901,714 guaranies for the central administration and 88,598,452,664 guaranies for decentralized institutions. Article 1 also establishes budget credit allowances for both the central administration and decentralized institutions; the former is entitled to 53,488,832,145 guaranies and the latter to 84,292,975,240 guaranies.

Article 3 establishes credit allowances for the various organizations, institutions and ministries which make up the central administration and decentralized institutions, amounts which will be earmarked for the implementation of their programs. The expenditures of each organization, institution or ministry can be either current or capital expenditures. Within the central administration, the executive branch [as published] is allocated 221,755,200 guaranies, of which 147,193,600 guaranies is earmarked for the Chamber of Deputies and 74,561,600 guaranies for the Senate.

Of the 41,436,106,935 guaranies earmarked for the executive branch, 10,539,663,800 is earmarked for the Ministry of Public Works and Communications; 8,059,971,215 guaranies for the Ministry of National Defense; 7,245,068,088 guaranies for the Ministry of Education and Worship; and 4,618,658,280 guaranies for the Ministry of the Interior.

Next in importance are the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, with 3,733,967,322 guaranies; the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare, with 3,012,185,270 guaranies; the Ministry of Finance with 1,976,400,800 guaranies; the Ministry of Foreign Relations with 795,355,960 guaranies; the Ministry of Justice and Labor with 690,497,800; the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, with 307,498,600 guaranies; the Presidency of the Republic, with 258,224,000 guaranies; and the Council of State with 11,853,000. The amount of 1,143,909,600 guaranies was earmarked for the Judicial Branch, and 10,687,060,410 guaranies is needed for various state obligations. The amount of 6,762,800 guaranies is earmarked for the ministry without portfolio.

The decentralized institutions are again divided into several subgroups, especially public enterprises, which consist of the following institutions: The National Electricity Administration, 9,622,548,800 guaranies; the National Telecommunications Administration, 5,286,931,000; the state water company, 4,938,905,900 guaranies; Paraguayan Airlines, 4,464,122,800 guaranies; the state merchant fleet, 3,139,304,899; the Paraguayan Alcohol Administration, 2,868,148,500 guaranies; the National Navigation and Port Administration, 1,267,947,100 guaranies; Carlos Antonio Lopez railway enterprise, 528,787,480 guaranies; and so forth. Among social security institutions, which are also listed as decentralized institutions, are the Social Security Institute, with 5,667,595,500 guaranies, and the pension and retirement fund of banking employees, with 2,426,051,000. Among leading institutions designed to promote development are the National Development Bank, 22,266,872,700 guaranies, followed in order of importance by the Livestock Fund, 2,236,713,300 guaranies, and the Agricultural Credit Bank with 888,706,800 guaranies.

INTERIOR MINISTER DENIES EXISTENCE OF COUP THREAT

PA090352 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0003 GMT 9 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Lima, 8 Dec (EFE)--Interior Minister Fernando Velit denied Saturday that a "coup threat" exists in Peru. Belit said whoever charges the armed forces with intending to impose a certain candidate or perpetuate themselves in power "is mixed up and contradicts his own speculation."

After pointing out that the transfer of power will be made on 28 July 1980, the minister said the government maintains a line of "absolute impartiality and justice" in the present preelectoral stage.

Velit announced that the government proposes to restore the full effectiveness of the constitutional guarantees suspended several months ago which bar arrests without a written warrant authorized by a judge or other competent authority. He said this measure will be possible because there is labor peace in the nation, but the government will be inflexible with whoever attempts to disrupt order.

He also called "absurd" a rumor that an attempt is being made to create a psychological climate for a military coup by calling on reservists to register. He explained that this is a precautionary measure in order to be properly prepared to defend the nation against any situation.

NEW TAX LAW MODIFIES SITUATION OF U.S. OIL COMPANIES

PA072250 Paris AFP in Spanish 1733 GMT 7 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Lima, 7 Dec (AFP)--The Peruvian Government today modified its oil contracts with the U.S. Occidental and Belco petroleum companies, making them subject to common tax laws. Suggested by the military regime several months ago, the reform appears in a law published here today which gives the two companies 30 days to meet the new regulations and tells them they must pay taxes effective last year.

Occidental operates in the jungles of northeastern Peru under a contract it signed with the Peruvian state petroleum enterprise in 1971. Belco operates on the northern continental shelf by virtue of a 1973 contract. These contracts were drawn up on the so-called Peruvian model of 1971, which gave companies 44-50 percent of the petroleum extracted and exempted them from tax payments.

The taxes the companies will now pay on their profits will be the same as those paid by all other companies operating in this country, after deducting costs and operating expenses, as well as routine depreciation.

Peru is currently producing approximately 200,000 barrels a day, of which 29,000 comes from Belco wells and 120,000 from Occidental's.

The government considered that the conditions under which the contracts were made have changed substantially, and thus it was necessary to update them and bring them into line with present circumstances. It also considered that the price of hydrocarbons increases rapidly and that the general law on taxes constitutes an adequate instrument to apply to this industry.

NICARAGUAN SANDINIST LEADERS ARRIVE FOR TALKS

Hold News Conference

PA071850 Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1250 GMT 7 Dec 79 PA

[Excerpt] High-ranking leaders of the Nicaraguan Government of the National Sandinist Liberation Front arrived last night in Panama City. The Nicaraguan officials who arrived from San Jose, Costa Rica, where they held talks with President Rodrigo Carazo are: national reconstruction government junta member Alfonso Robelo, Interior Minister Cmdr Tomas Borge, Deputy Interior Minister Cmdr Eden Pastora, and Cmdr Bayardo Arce.

They were met at Tocumen Airport by a large delegation headed by Foreign Minister Dr Carlos Ozores Typaldos. The group of leaders of the Nicaraguan revolution arrived aboard an air force plane. At the request of newsmen, Cmdr Tomas Borge conducted an impromptu news conference that proceeded as follows:

[Begin recording] [Question] What is the purpose of your visit to Panama?

[Answer] We are in Panama to reiterate our gratitude, our deep affection, and to tell the Panamanians once again that we will always continue to hold the Panamanians very close to our hearts.

[Question] Commander Borge, it has been said here in Panama that there is a small rift between the Nicaraguan and Panamanian governments because the military assistance Panama has given to Nicaragua has not been well-received; yet, this is not the case with the assistance granted by Cuba. What can you tell us about this?

[Answer] Of course this is absolutely false. We divide solidarity into several areas. Our revolution grants priority to the national Sandinist police. This is most important not only because the police force is the visible image of the revolution, but because it maintains public order in our country. We take good care of our national Sandinist police, and the police was formed by our Panamanian brothers. They fulfilled that mission, and we have proposed that this solidarity continue. Furthermore we will probably reach an agreement to continue this solidarity. Therefore, that rumor is only another myth that has been spread about our revolution.

Other countries are offering us their solidarity. For example, the Costa Rican Government and people are going to offer us training in the field of immigration procedures. The Cuban people have given us their support primarily in the fields of education and health. In addition, we are asking the Panamanians to send us teachers to help improve our education just as we asked the Costa Ricans to help us. We would be very proud and pleased to see companero Panamanian teachers contributing to the improvement of our people's education.

[Question] Commander Borge, how does the Sandinist revolution stand after 5 months?

[Answer] I would like to ask Commander Arce to answer that question.

[Commander Arce] We could use a graphic example to answer that, which to us is demonstrative of the results of these 5 months of Sandinist revolution and which is related to a social problem. We have just asked our people to donate their 13th month bonus to finance a special fund against unemployment. The answer we received was highly positive not only in the sense that after a debate in various sectors--and even before the government adopted a decision on the matter in that respect--a great number of unions, most of the working sectors of our country, decided spontaneously to donate their bonus.

Later, when the government decided to establish through a decree the obligation to make the donation, the people immediately reacted by donating their bonuses, despite the fact that there were some sectors still remaining in our country, although fortunately a small minority, who disagreed with the measure and tried to create artificial problems. To this the people again reacted by going out into the streets by the thousands to express their support of the government's measure. This would be, to our understanding, the balance of 5 months of Sandinist revolution.

[Question] Concerning information received here in Panama that all members of the Panamanian Victoriano Lorenzo Brigade were dismissed on orders from Cmdr Tomas Borge and has Cuban advisers, what can you tell us in that respect?

[Answer] I almost feel like refusing to answer this. I believe the answer, however, was already given by Companero Hugo Spadafora in statements to the international press. Such a report is false and it is part of the international campaign unleashed by reaction against our revolution. [end recording]

The visiting members of the Sandinist government will meet with President Aristides Royo tomorrow morning. The news conference scheduled for that occasion will be carried by our morning newscast. We invite you all to listen in.

Meet With Royo

PA080106 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1648 GMT 7 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Panama City, 7 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--The Panamanian and Nicaraguan leaders announced here today that they are willing to meet with the chiefs of governments or presidents of the rest of Central America in any capital on the isthmus. At the end of a meeting with Panamanian President Aristides Royo, Alfonso Robelo, member of the Nicaraguan Government Junta, said his country is "willing" to be the host or would travel to any country for a "top-level" meeting aimed at seeking "the desired stabilization of the area." For his part the Panamanian president said that Panama will not only attend the "summit" but also offers itself as the site for the meeting.

Royo, Robelo and three Sandinist commanders who arrived with Robelo last night--Tomas Borge, Bayardo Arce and Eden Pastora--denied that there had been a "cooling" in relations between Panama and Nicaragua. After meeting with Robelo and Arce--the latter a member of the Sandinist National Liberation Front National Directorate--Royo said that "the ties of friendship" between the two countries had been reaffirmed. "The whole world knows the stand of the Panamanian Government," Royo added. "It is a position of friendship, a firm hand and support. This friendship is reciprocal on the part of Nicaragua." Royo criticized the press for speaking of a "cooling" of relations.

Robelo said that the Nicaraguan authorities today asked Panama for aid in fields such as the training of customs, immigration, the comptroller's office and police personnel, housing, the supply of medicines and so forth. They also discussed the Panamanian tie with the Central American Common Market [CACM], which is currently almost at an standstill because of the various Central American conflicts. However, the Nicaraguan authorities are willing to revitalize it once it is reorganized. Royo said that Panama is interested in holding talks in order to see the degree of cooperation that could be established between Panama and the CACM. The Sandinist leaders and the Panamanian authorities also discussed the political situation in Central America and the border and diplomatic conflicts between Nicaragua and Honduras. The Sandinist leaders went from the presidency to Coclecito, in the interior, to meet with Gen Omar Torrijos. Robelo said that his government is concerned over what he termed "the constant provocations" of a sector of the Honduran Army, a situation which should be analyzed by the governments so the problem will not get worse.

President Royo also stated that what is happening in Nicaragua "is a revolution a la Nicaragua," adding that the Sandinists "are not importing or exporting it."

Robelo, Arce, Borge and Pastora arrived in Panama last night aboard Gen Omar Torrijos' plane from Costa Rica, where they held talks with President Rodrigo Carazo and a group of U.S. businessmen. They will return to Managua today after meeting with Torrijos.

Royo Reiterates Aid Commitment

PA081220 Paris AFP in Spanish 0005 GMT 8 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Panama City, 7 Dec (AFP)--Panamanian President Aristides Royo said here today that Panama will continue to help the Nicaraguan national reconstruction junta. He described relations between the two countries as warm. Royo spoke to newsmen shortly before meeting with government junta member Alfonso Robelo and Sandinist commander Bayardo Arce. The junta members are here on an official visit along with commanders of the revolution Tomas Borge and Eden Pastora, interior minister and deputy interior minister, respectively.

President Royo reiterated that Panama will continue to help Nicaragua as it did during the struggle to overthrow the Somoza dictatorship. Alfonso Robelo indicated that Panamanian aid to Nicaragua will be mainly in the areas of police training, immigration, comptrollership, low-cost housing and medicines. The Sandinist government delegation also met this afternoon with Gen Omar Torrijos, chief of the Panamanian National Guard and former chief of government.

TORRIJOS INTERVIEWED ON NICARAGUA, CENTRAL AMERICA ISSUES

PA080150 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Dec 79 PA

[Interview with Gen Omar Torrijos at his residence in El Farallon--recorded]

[Excerpt] [Torrijos] This conversation will be about several key issues, several topics. In the first place, the preoccupation of Panama, of Costa Rica, of the Sandinist leaders with the unnecessary disruption of the peaceful coexistence on the Central American isthmus. We discussed this at length; we called several nations of the isthmus, and we concluded that there is a natural, very natural tendency, precisely for the sake of filling an information gap, to magnify certain border incidents, many times the product of excessive zeal on the part of the soldiers guarding the border and also a product of misinformation--misinformation which exists with regard to the real situation in Nicaragua.

I believe--no, I am sure--that the conversation was very fruitful and I feel very satisfied that Panama has been able to contribute to this generation of Nicaraguans, having placed that country, Nicaragua, within the dignified countries of the world.

[Question] General, you speak of a real situation in Nicaragua. In your opinion, what is this situation?

[Answer] Well, the real situation, not of Nicaragua, but of the isthmus, is that we are seeing a geographical change of politics in the isthmus, a geographical birth. And when one attends a geographical birth, all births bring as a consequence certain unrest, pain and s[illegible], and the leaders, those who are playing roles, those who are watching, those who ar[illegible]tators or who play the main roles in this significant change of the political geograp[illegible]he isthmus must be aware that this type of change, this type of birth, does not take [illegible] without pain.

[Question] General Torrijos, what does Nicaragua represent for you within the concert of Latin American nations?

[Answer] Nicaragua is an example of the fact that a nation cannot be humiliated indefinitely, that when a generation is determined to liberate itself, it liberates itself. It confirmed for me what I always said through the struggle for the recovery of the canal: that there is no bullet, nor reprisal nor ammunition capable of assassinating an ideal or a liberation movement. And it represents, above all for Panama, a pride founded on the fact that these men gave this nation, this generation, the opportunity to be active players in this deep change that is taking place in Nicaragua.

[Question] General Torrijos, in the domestic field one of the issues that perhaps was not explained was the 47 units of the Victoriano Lorenzo Brigade which were returned to Panama. Was this topic ever discussed? What would the logical explanation for this be?

[Answer] No, this topic did not have enough importance to be discussed. I myself had long before made the recommendation, long before the victory, that the armed forces must be deforeignized. These men who played a role--at first we wanted them to return with Commander Spadafora, but they themselves requested, said that they were necessary for a stage. Once they formed their leading cadres they returned to Panama and they are going to be, some of them, reincorporated into the National Guard, others to their farming activities and others to their old jobs.

[Question] General Torrijos, there is something that is obvious. You are considered the tutor of the revolutionary process of Nicaragua. However, much has been said about relations between Panama and Nicaragua. We consider you to be the most adequate person to speak to us about these present relations between Panama and Nicaragua.

[Answer] Yes, a lot has been said. Because, if we view them within the context of normal relations, within a normal operative diplomatic procedure, we cannot understand that deep changes are taking place there, that our relations are so very cordial that sometimes these very cordial relations bring about fraternal discussions. And to be very sincere, I sometimes hear them saying things that make me mad. Victory cost these men so much--50,000 dead--and all of a sudden I see them making statements I do not like. I ask them for an explanation. They argue, or they chide me, or do not chide me, because between all people who think, there must exist differences. But outside these things, outside the fact that they are discussions full of affection, or possibly because we esteem them so much, because we admire so much the example this youth is setting for America, I sometimes overstep or am overly caring toward them. Outside of this, basically, there is absolutely nothing.

[Question] General, is it this overcaring that moves you to break this silence of so many months?

[Answer] No, it is not, because they frequently come here--they come much more often than you think. But this time I wanted them to come in through the front door, with the press, with television, and even more now, Luz, when you have a good television system--the picture is being improved, programs are being improved. And also I wanted to enjoy a new picture, a new program.

[Question] General, your participation in the political life of Nicaragua also makes us feel that Panama needs something from you. What can you say about our present situation?

[Answer] What situation?

[Question] Much has been said about your withdrawal. There has been much comment about your trips. A lot has even been said about the present cabinet. Your opinion at this time would be very valid, General.

[Answer] Don't get me mixed up in that problem. I was in charge for 11 years--10 years. Every day that passes I am more convinced that withdrawing was very good and very healthy. For me, being completely honest, I would not have conducted the government better than Royo--I would not have done it better than Royo. Royo has all our confidence. To speak in more sophisticated terms, the public force is at the service of the executive. To speak in Panamanian, as I always do, anyone who makes a pass at Royo must account to us.

[Question] In your conversation today, was any measure taken to neutralize destabilization in Central America, in the isthmus? Did you agree on anything?

[Answer] I was explaining to these men that truths must be accepted as they are--that countries live with one country and sleep with another. Panama sleeps with Colombia and Costa Rica. They sleep with Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua. [as heard] And just as they are always very zealous, it is necessary to understand the problems of others. For me it is not at all significant that there are 1,000 or 2,000 or 5,000 Cuban teachers because the alphabet has never overthrown anyone, has never destabilized anyone in the civilized world, that is. I know of no example of when the alphabet destabilized anyone. In reality, Nicaragua was built with blood by a tyrant and it was punished with blood. The new Nicaragua is going to be buil by these men with no other weapon than the alphabet. This is a reality. However, there are people who do not understand this. I have become convinced that we must understand those who do not understand because they live with each other.

President Royo called me this morning and told me that he had made a commitment with them to train 200 more policemen. The first ones we sent made a very good impression because they were very well trained technically. They were very courteous policemen, trained not to attack anyone but to pacify, to live peacefully with them, within the people--nonarrogant police. So Nicaragua is enjoying a police force that is not arrogant, insulting or disrespectful. And since the product was good, they want us to supply 200 more policemen. We discussed the plans, and I called the general staff for plans to be made to train 200 more policemen for them. Then later we will shape the cadres, shape the ranks, sufficient for them to be in condition to continue training their policemen.

For us--for me, as chief of the National Guard--we are proud that they have selected Panama for this training, considering that the police are the first image of the government that the people see on the street. Many other countries would have liked Nicaragua to make them proud this way.

I also know that President Royo and President Carazo are communicating closely so as to obtain, through friendly governments or through international organizations, the financing so that salaries may be paid to several hundred teachers in Nicaragua, so that Central American reaction will not hide the true reason for their disgust with the new government of Nicaragua and take as the apparent cause the fact that hundreds of Cuban teachers are teaching the alphabet. As far as I know, the alphabet has never destabilized anyone.

Royo and Carazo are taking steps to promote, within the shortest time possible, a meeting of chiefs of state of the isthmus, the Central American isthmus, and they are going to offer Panama or Costa Rica as the site. They are working on this, but before that meeting this preliminary meeting had to take place to explain to these Sandinist leaders the advantage of this meeting which for me they have given me further satisfaction: They understood how necessary this meeting is.

On the other hand, we judge these men because within a revolutionary movement there is always leftist verbalism. We judge them from a Cuban teacher, from a Cuban telegraph operator, from a Cuban engineer. But we do not judge them for what they have not done.

Tell me if in Nicaragua one of these men has expropriated even a little donkey, a team of oxen, a ricefield. Let us see what they have not done. Why don't we pay attention to what they have not done? We come to the conclusion that they have not executed anyone. Look, these men have such a capacity for mercy that I really admire it. Perhaps it is higher than any of us could have had. Let us judge them for what they have not done, which is a lot more significant than what they have done.

I admire them, I really admire them, and every day I feel more proud that I believed in them when they were mere subversives, to use the disrespectful term that is used against them. And I admire their great capacity for receiving advice. I admire them because they do not accept the agreeable truth, and that is why we sometimes discuss, as all thinking men discuss, because it is not our truth or their truth; the logical truth emerges from the discussion.

And above all I admire them because basically they have respected the cultural patterns of that nation. They have not tried to atheize--is that right? That is, make them atheists. They do not disrespect the nature of those people. And I believe that we are exaggerating because we are fostering fear for them, fear that their own people do not feel for them. That is, do we want to be more Nicaraguan than the Nicaraguans? Is this not disrespect for the private universe of their nationality and their Nicaraguan being?

GOVERNMENT ACCUSES U.S. OF NONCOMPLIANCE WITH TREATIES

PA072030 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 7 Dec 79 PA

[Excerpt] The Panamanian Government has lodged a complaint with the U.S. Government because it has not complied with the Panama Canal treaties. The United States has not appointed its representatives to the mixed commission that was created to manage the canal until the year 2000. The protest was lodged last month, but thus far the Carter administration has neither responded nor appointed its officials, Carlos Lopez Guevara, Panamanian ambassador to the United States, revealed today. The delay in this case and in others since last month has apparently resulted from a backlog of matters pending presidential decision at the White House because of the crisis with Iran, a U.S. official said today.

U.S. Response

PA080411 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 7 Dec 79 PA

[Text] An unidentified U.S. State Department official said today in Washington that Panama had accused the United States of violating the canal treaties by delaying the appointment of its five members of the joint commission for the strategic interoceanic waterway. According to the official, who explained that Washington had advised Panama that it is trying to act as rapidly as possible to appoint the commissioners, Panama has said that it is concerned over the delay and believes this is failure to apply the treaty.

The State Department official also said that in a message recently sent to the Panamanian Government in reply to its note to U.S. Ambassador Ambler Moss, Washington explained the delay and Panama has not replied to this U.S. explanation. However, it understands the delay in the appointment of the commissioners and expects that it will be announced soon by President Carter.

The U.S. State Department official said that the names of the candidates had been presented to Carter. He refused to reveal them but said a newspaper report gave the names of Clifford D. O'Hare of the New York and New Jersey Port Administration, Frank Nemeck, retired president of the Likes-Johnston Company, and William Sidel, president of the Brotherhood of Carpenters.

COSTA RICA

CARAZO, ROYO MAY MEDIATE HONDURAS-NICARAGUA CONFLICT

PA091638 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1559 GMT 9 Dec 79 PA

[Text] San Jose, Costa Rica, 9 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo Odio has said the conflict between Honduras and Nicaragua is not serious. Carazo voiced hopes that the conflict will end.

Carazo said it is possible that he and Panamanian President Aristides Royo will mediate the conflict because, he said, it is not too late yet. He said he would be very happy to mediate whenever necessary. However, he believes the matter is not serious at this time.

DISPOSITION OF SOMOZA ESTATE DISPUTED

PA082121 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 29 Nov 79 p 6 a PA

[By Bosco Valverde]

[Excerpt] While the Somoza family is contending in Costa Rican courts that the price the state set on El Murcielago farm is not fair, the new Nicaraguan administration is requesting that the money be turned over to the Sandinist government, "since all Somoza assets have been confiscated."

Meanwhile, the land that belonged to Somoza and now legally belongs to Costa Rica has not been disposed of because of differences between the Institute of Lands and Colonization (ITCO) and the National Parks Bureau, the organizations which both claim it.

A legislative decree was issued on 20 June 1979 expropriating the farm. Our country took it over during a ceremony attended by President Carazo and its name was changed to Juan Santamaria.

The property was estimated to be worth 11.7 million colones. However, the first administrative court raised that sum to 12 million and the government deposited 14 million in case other expenses might be incurred. Then the firm that owned the estate, of 16,057 hectares, filed its claim through Otto Rojas, Rodrigo Acosta Rodo and Alfredo Vargas Fernandez who represent the owner, Gen Anastasio Somoza Debayle, in our country.

Prosecutor Mercedes Solorzano said the estimate was based on the worth reported by the owners to the proper agencies in Costa Rica.

In turn the Nicaraguan Government, through Francisco Cordero Zuniga, represented to the court that El Murielago stock belonged entirely to Somoza. It added that since his assets had been confiscated by the new government the amount paid for it should be awarded to Nicaragua.

No decision has been made, but this does not bar the Costa Rican Government from disposing of the land pursuant to Law 6279, published in the GAZETTE of 12 June 1979.

According to that law, the executive branch can freely transfer to ITCO the portion of land suitable for agricultural work so it can pursue its peasant settlement program. The rest of the land can be used to extend the Santa Rosa National Park.

Police are guarding the property because of the dispute between the two organizations. ITCO originally requested 3,500 hectares for some 150 families from Cuajiniquil. That land is in the west, and the National Parks Bureau, headed by Jose Maria Rodriguez, estimated that it was given an inadequate part and that not all the land requested by ITCO was suitable for agriculture.

CARAZO TO MEET WITH MEXICAN CABINET MEMBERS

PA072024 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 7 Dec 79 PA

[Excerpt] Two members of the Mexican cabinet will arrive in Costa Rica today. As of January 1980, Mexico will deliver 7,000 barrels of oil daily to Costa Rica. President Carazo will meet with the Mexican cabinet members today.

The Mexican secretary of patrimony and industrial development, Jose Andres de Oteyza, and the secretary of communications and transport, Emilio Mujica, will arrive at noon today to meet with Costa Rican President Rodrigo Carazo. They are expected to make an important announcement this afternoon on this and other subjects.

EL SALVADOR

NICARAGUAN FOREIGN MINISTER D'ESCOTO ARRIVES FOR VISIT

Seeks Central American Unity

PA082059 Paris AFP in Spanish 1939 GMT 8 Dec 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 8 Dec (AFP)--Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto arrived here today for an official visit. D'Escoto is on a mission seeking the unity of Central American countries in international forums he said.

On his arrival, the Nicaraguan foreign minister told newsmen that the Sandinist government is working on safe-conducts for more than 300 Nicaraguans who have sought asylum in the Venezuelan, Guatemalan, Salvadoran and Spanish embassies.

The foreign minister denied that his government is helping ultraleftist Central American groups and stated that revolution cannot be exported. He noted that every nation is free to generate its own recovery movement.

Meanwhile, the National Association of Private Enterprise has called for a general lockout Monday to protest the government's lack of authority. According to an announcement, commercial and industrial establishments will close their doors as of noon Monday to facilitate the presence of employees and workers at a peace march that will culminate in a meeting at the government palace.

Meeting With Government Junta

PA090111 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1958 GMT 8 Dec 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 8 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto held a meeting today with the government junta of El Salvador to discuss Central American integration and his country's food needs.

D'Escoto said he is in El Salvador on a courtesy and friendship visit which he will take advantage of to discuss Nicaraguan and Central American problems. He announced a conference of Central American foreign ministers 15-17 January in San Jose, Costa Rica. D'Escoto said the Salvadoran people and government are willing to supply food to his people and that during today's meeting the sale of Salvadoran white corn to Nicaragua will be agreed up on. Nicaragua, he said, needs over 1 million quintals of this basic grain.

Salvadoran Foreign Minister Hector Dada Hirezi said El Salvador welcomes the Nicaraguan official with great pleasure since, he added, "it permits continuation of the cordial dialog begun recently in Managua."

The Salvadoran revolutionary junta visited Managua and met with the junta of national reconstruction of that Central American nation.

Dada Hirezi emphasized that basic aid will be afforded to the republic, which "is facing difficult moments."

Speaking about national issues shortly before the meeting with the Nicaraguan foreign minister, Salvadoran revolutionary junta member Mario Antonio Andino told the press that during a Council of State meeting Friday night at the presidency, government leaders had established the foundations for the structural reforms outlined in the armed forces proclamation of 15 October following the overthrow of Gen Carlos Humberto Romero.

Andino pointed out that there are 13 basic points in the junta's program and that in compliance with one of these, the Ministry of Agriculture should announce the outline of the national agrarian reform within 15 days.

Also, the Ministry of Labor should outline within 8 days general aspects of the organization of peasant unions.

Andino concluded that the Council of Ministers had decided to discuss data on the marketing of coffee, cotton and sugar, El Salvador's basic export products.

VENEZUELA GRANTS OIL, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE COMMITMENTS

PA081315 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 29 Nov 79 pp 3, 90 PA

[Text] The revolutionary government junta obtained from the visiting Venezuelan Ministry of Energy and Mines delegation a formal commitment to supply petroleum to our country under preferential terms, a $20-million credit and a renewal of an agreement with the Venezuelan Investments Fund.

After examining the available information, Venezuelan technicians Jose Ramon Solano, Nelson Reyes and Dr Jose Mendez Zapata pointed out that an offshore area with great possibilities for hydrocarbon accumulation had been detected. Therefore, there is a need for immediate exploitation of the continental shelf.

The technicians believe legal documents must be consulted before drilling can begin, especially the hydrocarbons law. This must be done to establish operating conditions for contractors. It was said a draft bill is already being drawn up by the proper authorities.

The Venezuelan delegation offered technical assistance in studying legal aspects that would call for a certain specialization. In other fields, Venezuela will grant scholarships for the study of geology at the Central University of Venezuela, and a seminar will be opened for young professionals and senior university students in San Salvador on the economic, organizational, commercial and technical aspects of the petroleum industry.

Salvadoran professionals will also train in Venezuela in geophysics, offshore drilling and refining. A course will be given on legal aspects applicable to the petroleum industry such as contracting, bidding, negotiating petroleum contracts and so forth. All of these courses will be given by Venezuelan professionals and technicians of indisputable knowledge and experience.

During their stay in our country, the Venezuelan technicians have been hosted by Oscar Menjivar, the under secretary of economy; Rodrigo Guerra y Guerra, president of the Lempa River Executive Committee [CEL]; Benjamin S. Valiente, executive director of CEL; Eric Casamiquela, deputy executive director of CEL; Dr Jaime del Valle, legal adviser of CEL; and Dr Carlos H. Henriquez, director of CONAPE-MIPLAN [expansion unknown].

GOVERNMENT ISSUES DECREE ON AGRARIAN REFORM

PA080306 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0022 GMT 8 Dec 79 PA

[By Rosendo Majano H.]

[Text] San Salvador, 7 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--The Salvadoran revolutionary government junta tonight took concrete steps for the country's future agrarian reform by issuing a decree which prohibits owners of more than 100 hectares from transferring ownership or encumbering the property while the agrarian reform law is not in effect.

The decree, read over a national radio network, indicated that in accordance with the 15 October armed forces proclamation, an agrarian reform process will be started to achieve a just distribution of wealth at the same time that the gross national product is increased. It added that property should fill a social function and that this "principle has not been fulfilled, thus causing economic, social and political agitation in the Salvadoran society."

It stressed that agrarian policy must be fully implemented through an agrarian reform process based on the importance of the rural people. It emphasized that the need to speed up and safeguard the development of the agrarian reform in the country and to guarantee its success in the short term, demanding that immediate emergency measures be taken to prevent a disorderly process of transferences, division and encumbrances of rural property.

Article 1 of Decree No. 43 of the revolutionary junta stated that persons whose total rural properties amount to between 50 and 100 hectares can transfer ownership and encumber them if they obtain prior authorization of the Salvadoran Institute of Agrarian Transformation. If the property is less than 50 hectares, the owners do not need this authorization.

It established that the above provisions do not affect conveyances by inheritance or bequest. However, coheirs cannot divide rural properties over 100 hectares. Heirs, according to common law, maintain the obligation of executing the transfer of the bequests. The beneficiaries of bequests of rural properties over 100 hectares are also obliged to maintain them undivided.

The decree prohibits notaries from authorizing documents that violate these provisions. It also prohibits real estate and mortgage registrars from registering deeds that violate these provisions. It establishes fines of up to $100,000 for those who grant such documents.

The extreme right wing, which has traditionally opposed the agrarian reform, is expected to react to this decree. It has also been reported that the revolutionary government junta revised Article 9 of the public employees vacation and leave law by increasing paid maternity leave to 90 days. A similar law to benefit teachers has also been reformed. In the past, teachers and other government workers only had 60 days' maternity leave.

AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL ANNOUNCES NATIONWIDE STRIKE

PA091344 Paris AFP in Spanish 0027 GMT 8 Dec 79 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 7 Dec (AFP)--The National Council of Agricultural Organizations [Consejo Nacional de Entidades Agropecuarias] today agreed to stage a nationwide agricultural strike as a way of exerting pressure on the government to confront the action of leftist groups. The council, which includes coffee, sugar, cotton, livestock and other producers and exporters announced the strike in the local press but did not say when it will begin.

In their statement, the farmers demanded that the government put an end to the dissociative activities of groups which--in open defiance of the principle of respect for the rights of others--are taking over crops and benefits [beneficios] in order to demand wages that are higher than those established by law. In addition, the council demanded that the government eliminate the popular militias, organizations and groups that are trying to usurp the activities and duties of the armed forces.

Meanwhile, a new opposition front appeared here when the National Association of Private Enterprise (ANEP) openly declared itself in opposition to the regime by stating that all of its actions are leaning toward the left. The ANEP asked the government junta and particularly the armed forces to avoid being swept away by the communists who want to lead the country into chaos.

The ANEP harshly criticized the junta, noting that the country is heading toward a catastrophe with the interventionist measures that are being adopted. The ANEP said it rejects the agrarian reform and the nationalization of banks and foreign trade. Although these measures have not been adopted yet, the ANEP claims they will certainly be adopted.

Certain editorials, signed by ANEP supporters, have even demanded the resignation of the junta members who overthrew Gen Carlos Humberto Romero on 15 October, and the ministers they described as leftists.

GUATEMALA

MILITARY PATROL, GUERRILLAS CLASH IN CHAJUL

PA082225 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2009 GMT 8 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 8 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--A clash between an army patrol and some 30 guerrillas took place at Chaljul, a town in the west, resulting in the death of 7 rebels. Three soldiers were wounded.

The army public relations office today reported the new incident, the third in the area of El Quiche.

According to the official report, the guerrillas attempted to seize a military post. They were carrying a red flag bearing the name "poor people's army."

The attack took place at noon on Friday, and according to the military version all the dead were unidentified since they carried no documents. All were between 18 and 26 and had unusual facial features for the region.

Today, adds the report, military contingents from the Mariscal Gregorio Solares base at El Quiche are continuing to pursue the other subversives, who fled to the foothills after leaving behind weapons of various types.

Meanwhile the national police in Zacapa in eastern Guatemala reported that another shooting incident had occurred at the local fairground and one person was killed . He was identified as Byron Caballeros, 36. The identity of the attackers and the reasons for the attack are still unknown, but it was said that "they are being closely pursued by police."

HONDURAS

GOVERNMENT, NICARAGUAN TROOPS CLASH AT BORDER POST

PA071522 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1448 GMT 7 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 7 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--Honduran and Nicaraguan troops exchanged fire last night at the joint border post of Las Manos, it was unofficially learned here today. The Honduran report said that there was an inexplicable power failure at 2210 (0410 GMT) on the Honduran side and the Nicaraguan garrison opened fire immediately thereafter. The unofficial report added that four Honduran soldiers assigned to the Las Manos border post were forced to return fire.

Las Manos is in El Paraiso Department, on the southern Honduran border. The border posts are about 100 meters apart. The Hondurans have not made an official report to the press on this clash. They will probably not do so because Honduras prefers to use diplomatic channels to settle these issues and not give them any publicity.

It is not known if there were any casualties on either side, although it is believed there have been some casualties because of the intense shooting. The Honduran radio stations that reported the incident said it had been impossible to travel to the site of the action.

Government Announcement

PA072110 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 7 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa--The Honduran Government today reiterated its determination not to intervene in the internal affairs of Nicaragua. This announcement was made by the chief of military intelligence, G-2, Lt Col Leonidas Torres Arias, to a group of newsmen who asked him about the armed clashes in the past few hours along the Honduran-Nicaraguan border.

Our soldiers have never violated the sovereignty of Nicaragua, said Torres Arias. Our troops are vigilant but are inside our territory, he concluded.

PEREZ REJECTS PRAVDA CHARGES OF PROVOKING NICARAGUA

PA071247 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1600 GMT 5 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 5 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--Honduran Foreign Minister Eliseo Perez Cadalso today vigorously rejected charges made by PRAVDA, organ of the Soviet Communist Party, which said the Honduran military government is "carrying out a constant chain of provocations" against Nicaragua. Cadalso said that PRAVDA reports are usually "biased and far from the truth," noting that Honduras has never wanted to provoke any of its neighbors.

Local newspapers carried a Moscow-datelined dispatch reporting that PRAVDA maintains that the Honduran Army is constantly engaged in sabotage actions and violations of Nicaraguan airspace. PRAVDA says that the Soviet Union considers Nicaragua a friendly country to which it is giving strong support.

In referring to the PRAVDA charges, Perez Cadalso reiterated that the Honduran military junta respects the right of self-determination and that its foreign policy is based on friendship and mutual respect among states and people. The foreign minister's statements were revealed at a time when authorities are awaiting the arrival of Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Father Miguel D'Escoto, who will arrive on Friday, in an attempt to reach an agreement on problems between the two countries.

OFFICIALS MAKE CONTRADICTORY STATEMENTS ON NICARAGUAN PLANES

PA071709 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1758 GMT 5 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 5 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--Contradictory statements have been made here in connection with the return of several planes to Nicaragua. Civil Aeronautics Director Rafael Castro Arita has said he does not know why the military government has not returned several planes to the Nicaraguan junta. This is contrary to what Honduran Foreign Minister Eliseo Perez Cadalso said recently. He said that all Nicaraguan planes have already been returned and the remaining ones are the property of transnational companies.

Castro said that the Nicaraguan planes are a "hindrance in Honduras," and they are "taking up space" needed for national planes. Castro denied that Honduras, represented by him at a recent Central American aviation convention, is committed to returning those planes as his Nicaraguan colleague, Armegol Lara, stated recently. The Honduran official said he does not know the exact number of planes remaining here because "that matter is in the hands of the Foreign Ministry, not in ours."

NICARAGUAN FOREIGN MINISTER POSTPONES SCHEDULED VISIT

PA071757 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1626 GMT 7 Dec 79 PA

[Excerpt] Tegucigalpa, 7 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto has postponed his announced visit to Honduras because he is unable to travel from Guatemala to El Salvador.

This information was supplied by Conny de Pinel, charge d'affaires at the Nicaraguan Embassy in Tegucigalpa, who said: "There are apparently difficulties regarding the flight from Guatemala to El Salvador, and the foreign minister will reportedly not arrive in El Salvador until tomorrow. This means he could not be in Honduras until the afternoon. However, a Saturday arrival would be inconvenient.

Mrs Pinel hinted that D'Escoto's visit to Tegucigalpa may not take place until Monday because he has matters of importance to discuss with the Salvadoran Government junta.

"I must reach an agreement with the foreign minister of Nicaragua and the Honduras foreign secretary before rearranging the visit to Tegucigalpa. It is certain D'Escoto will not arrive today," Conny de Pinel concluded.

NICARAGUA

EPS COMMUNIQUE CALLS ON HONDURAS TO EXPLAIN BORDER INCIDENT

PA092204 Managua EL PUEBLO in Spanish 6 Dec 79 pp 1, 12 PA

[Text] At the government house acting Foreign Minister Dr Alvaro Ramirez Gonzalez at noon discussed, among other things, the killing of a Sandinist Peoples Army (EPS) member by Honduran guardsmen. A Foreign Ministry statement on this delicate matter is expected this afternoon.

Tense relations between Honduras and Nicaragua had eased in the past few days to the point that Foreign Minister Fr Miguel D'Escoto had planned to visit Tegucigalpa during his tour of Central America. At the moment Father D'Escoto is in Costa Rica. He will then go to Panama and it is not known if he will visit Honduras.

An EPS communique has confirmed Felix Ordonez' death at the hands of Honduran guardsmen. It has also called for an immediate investigation, punishment for the guilty and an explanation of the embarrassing incident by the Honduran Government.

International dispatches report the Honduran Army began an operation along the entire Nicaraguan border to eliminate possible causes of friction between the troops of the two countries. According to AFP, the news sources indicated that the Honduran Armed Forces' action "basically seeks to improve diplomatic relations between the two countries."

The official Honduran report says Honduran Army patrols have undertaken an all-out war on criminal gangs and other elements causing unrest along the border to put an end to bilateral tensions.

However Honduran Foreign Secretary Dr Eliseo Perez Cadalso has told the foreign press that the armed incident occurred in Honduran territory and that a Honduran patrol of four 11th Infantry Battalion members led by 2d Lt Ismael H. Rico caught the Sandinist army members by surprise at Palo Verde near the common border. The Honduran foreign secretary added that the Sandinists obeyed the order to come to a halt.

An official communique by the general commander's office says the incident occurred differently--that the Honduran guardsmen attacked the EPS members by surprise and that after a bullet killed Felix Ordonez, his companion Luis Cuadra did not shoot in accordance with high command orders not to open fire on Honduran troops. It adds that the attackers had the advantage.

It has also been reported the Honduran 6th Battalion has been stationed near the Nicaraguan border.

LEADERS VIEW RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORS

PA071843 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2228 GMT 6 Dec 79 PA

[By Ruben C. Jauregui]

[Text] Mexico City, 5 Dec (EFE)--Obviously conscious that they are sitting on a "powder keg" because powerful Central American groups dislike them, the Nicaraguan leaders seem to have decided to adopt a more moderate policy in Central America.

Victor Manuel Tirado, member of the Sandinist National Liberation Front's joint National Directorate, said here during a lecture that the Nicaraguan Government has no intention of supporting the struggle of Salvadoran leftists. This clearly reflects the Nicaraguan Government's intention of not provoking even the slightest friction with its neighbors.

Within this framework, Managua has no intention of severing relations with its neighboring governments over internal political events.

"What is first comes first," said Tirado in a play on words intended to underscore that, more than anything, the Nicaraguan Government wants to meet its economic recovery goals.

Along these lines, the Nicaraguan leaders obviously look with concern at their strained relations with Honduras. In their opinion, the strain is motivated by certain social sectors that maintained ties with Nicaragua during Somoza's time and are now promoting incidents to disrupt such ties.

The Sandinist leaders are convinced that the campaign is being carried out not only in Honduras but in the rest of Central America as well, with the intention of politically isolating the present government. Therefore, the policy that seems to have prevailed is one of not only averting friction between governments but, on the contrary, of encouraging economic ties in order to bring the area's countries closer.

"Our attitude toward all Central American nations is one of friendship and cooperation," said Jaime Wheelock, who was agrarian reform minister until yesterday. In any event, Nicaragua's position includes a rejection of the idea that three of the countries on the isthmus--El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras--plan to form an alliance to struggle against their revolution. "I do not believe there will be a triangle. I definitely do not believe it," Tirado said.

NORTH KOREAN DIPLOMATS TO PRESENT CREDENTIALS

PA081946 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0115 GMT 8 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Managua, 7 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--A delegation of the People's Republic of Korea, led by Kim Knong-tak and including Kiong-sik, Che Sung-jion, Kim Chan-song and Kim U-zin [names as received] as advisers and attaches, visited the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry Today. They are preparing to present their credentials. The North Korean diplomatic mission will determine, along with the Nicaraguan Government, the fields in which the eastern nation can help rebuild Nicaragua after its bloody civil war.

U.S. MILITARY ACTION IN IRAN REPORTEDLY BEING PLANNED

FL071346 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 7 Dec 79 FL

[Text] Despite the efforts of the recently-held UN Security Council meeting to reduce tension in the nearly 2-month-long U.S.-Iranian conflict, the situation appears to have deteriorated more and more according to dispatches received in our offices. Among those, there is one PRELA dispatch from Paris stating that a French magazine (VSD) reports that the first U.S. commandos have arrived in Bahrain, the principal petroleum port of Saudi Arabia, aboard Hercules aircraft. The U.S. commandos, dressed in civilian clothes and officially known as specialists and technicians, could, according to the plan prepared by the Pentagon, invade and seize the island of Kharq, a territory of Iran, with a single blow.

The magazine points out that there are large oil deposits there, the fuel reserves that Iran exports. Whoever holds Kharq, the magazine (VSD) affirms, can economically drown the Islamic republic. The French magazine adds that currently some 40,000 former Iranian military personnel are concentrating in Egypt, Israel and Jordan and that in Tehran itself they are clandestinely organizing armed supporters of the former shah in preparation for orders to take action.

ROA KOURI RAPS U.S. SECURITY FOR FOREIGN DIPLOMATS

FL071258 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Dec 79 FL

[Text] Cuba has questioned U.S. fulfillment of agreements with the United Nations guaranteeing the security and immunity of diplomatic personnel and buildings. Cuban Ambassador Raul Roa Kouri, in a speech before the commission on juridical affairs, affirmed that the existence of problems affecting the normal functions of permanent missions accredited to the UN headquarters in New York City is evident.

Enumerating the deficiencies, Raul Roa Kouri mentioned the explosions which took place at the entrance to the Cuban mission and the complaints of the Soviet Union dealing with the lack of security for its mission personnel. He recalled major explosions in front of the Cuban mission building which were denounced in June 1976, September 1978 and January and October 1979 and caused great damage to the building and placed in jeopardy the lives of Cuban officials and residents of buildings nearby.

Roa Kouri asserted that the agreements and covenants guaranteeing the security of diplomatic personnel and buildings are mere unimportant pieces of paper for the U.S. Government. In closing he said: The United States may demand fulfillment [of such agreements] for its own benefit and is so doing, but it has certainly been negligent in fulfilling them in cases such as ours.

UN Mission Bombed

FL081439 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1433 GMT 8 Dec 79 FL

[Text] A bomb of medium power last night exploded on one side of the Cuban UN mission in New York causing considerable material damage but no casualties. Two days earlier, the Cuban ambassador to the United Nations, Raul Roa Kouri, condemned the constant attacks against Cuban officials in New York City. The bombing is the fourth in the past 15 months. Roa Kouri last night charged that U.S. authorities know where the criminals are and who trained them. If the U.S. Government wanted it, the attacks would cease today, he added.

BODY OF PILOT RETURNED TO UNITED STATES

FL070147 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 7 Dec 79 FL

[Text] Cuba has returned, at the request of the United States, the body of a U.S. pilot whose plane was downed during the battles which took place at Playa Giron in 1961. The body was identified as (Thomas Willard Ray), former member of the U.S. Armed Forces and resident of Alabama. The body was delivered to (Edwin Bethel), second secretary in charge of consular affairs in the U.S. interest section in Cuba. (Bethel) took charge of transporting the remains of the pilot to U.S. territory.

CASTRO MESSAGE TO CUBAN-SOVIET YOUTH FESTIVAL HAILED

FL071142 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 7 Dec 79 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro's message to the second Cuban-Soviet friendship youth festival has a very special significance because it demonstrates the prestige of Cuba's Union of Young Communists and the party's interest in this festival of friendship for the exchange of experiences. The statement was made by Dmitriy Filippov, secretary of the USSR All-Union Komsomol Central Committee Secretariat, who heads his country's delegation to the youth festival held in Santiago de Cuba from 2 December until last night. Santiago is a city with great historic traditions and lots of similarities with Leningrad. While here, we have felt as if we were at home, which is why I wish to convey to the youth of Santiago de Cuba and of the entire country very warm greetings on behalf of the 39 million members of the Soviet Komsomol, Filippov stated.

Festival Ends

FL080139 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Dec 79 FL

[Text] The Cuban-Soviet second friendship festival has concluded with a meeting at the Mariana Grajales Amphitheater in Santiago de Cuba City. It was closed by Jose Ramon Balaguer, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the party in Santiago de Cuba Province, The ceremony was also presided over by Luis Orlando Dominguez, member of the PCC Central Committee and first secretary of the Union of Young Communists--UJC--National Committee, Dimitriy Filippov, secretary of the USSR Leninist Komsomol, and Col Yuriy Romanenko, pilot cosmonaut and hero of the USSR. On behalf of the delegates (Aleksandr Davidov), knight of the Order of the Red Flag, read the letter of the participants to the youth festival to the central committees of the PCC and CPSU. It states that the Komsomol and the UJC will continue training themselves so that they will be their firmest and most worthy replacements in the future.

CARLOS RAFAEL RODRIGUEZ MEETS WITH ALGERIAN DELEGATION

FL062329 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 6 Dec 79 FL

[Text] Today Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, member of the PCC Politburo and vice president of the councils of State and Ministers, met at the Palace of the Revolution with Abdelghani Akbi, member of the Algerian National Liberation Front Party Central Committee and minister of commerce. Others participating in the meeting were Bachir Ould-Rouis, Algerian ambassador to Cuba, and (Salim Kelavi), director of the Commerce Ministry. The meeting took place in a cordial and friendly atmosphere and they discussed aspects of the development of trade relations between the two countries. They also studied the possibilities of increasing trade betwees Cuba and Algeria and the determination of the two countries to expand existing cooperation to various sectors of their economies.

Attending the meeting on the Cuban side were Comrade Marcelo Fernandez Font, member of the PCC Central Committee and minister of foreign trade, Luis Gutierrez, adviser to the vice president, Amadeo Blanco, director of foreign trade, and Jose Gonzalez, commercial counselor to Algeria.

'FREDDY' REFLECTS ON CURRENT WORLD EVENTS

FL061928 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1730 GMT 6 Dec 79 FL

[Guido Garcia Inclan commentary: "Letter From Freddy"]

[Text] My dear friend: Before beginning with this report, let me ask your forgiveness for taking so long in writing you. The publication of newspapers is a continuous coming and going of all reporters and there are never enough of us. You know this very well. I should have opened this letter with the famous and traditional saying: "We are dancing on top of a volcano." That is how the world is. I do not have to tell you much about all this because I know the news reports and newspapers from throughout the world are keeping you abreast of the events that affect everyone. Everybody is involved, one way or another, in this war which has our nerves on end. The powerful ones, the ones with more money, suddenly find themselves without money because they lack the thing that moves the world--oil, energy, the thing that gives us gasoline to move. Moreover, there are international disputes which we never would have imagined. The countries that can do everything have exerted much pressure and now they cannot complain. And the ones that have stolen with impunity have been themselves in poor health without the ability to pay to cure themselves. Mankind still does not seem to understand all this. We not only have the example of the shah, but that of hundreds of others and Cubans who have died alone and in poverty over here. When they killed [Eulalio] Negrin [Cuban exile representative] in New Jersey, I was going to write you because he was my friend. But the sad thing is that an organization, Omega 7, claimed responsibility and nothing happened here. That is the inconceivable thing.

I now recall our dead in Barbados. [October 1976 sabotage of Cuban airliner] These people [presumably Cuban exiles] are only concerned about the Yankees and do not care about others. Now they are paying for all this. Yesterday, we were saying at the newspaper that Somoza was the one who had done the best thing knowing well what would have happened to him. He left here leaving his fortune in good safety. However, any day he might hit a storm at sea and he will sink to the bottom with his yacht. That is life. Every day we hear of earthquakes that destroy towns and airplanes that crash with hundreds of innocent passengers. And men still get involved in war. Some day the mandate of the Bible will be fulfilled. And we do not learn; we do not learn well what we are taught, what life itself teaches us. Dictators enjoy themselves and steal, but their end is loneliness and exile, Reflecting on their sorrow outside their own country. When a nation achieves at least traquillity, as our beloved Cuba has, others insist on making their life difficult. And always, always it is the same. One only needs to visit a hospital for cancer patients or home for the elderly to see the panoramas that serve as a lesson. But, in short, my dear friend, why sadden ourselves even more. Let us live and wait.

I am writing and traveling much. I am sending you articles, newspapers and other things. Thanks for all you attentions. An embrace to you from your friend, Freddy.

ST VINCENT

REPORTAGE ON UPRISING ON UNION ISLAND

Airport, Police Station Occupied

PA071454 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1431 GMT 7 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Kingstown, St Vincent, 7 Dec (LATIN-REUTER)--The St Vincent Government today sent troops to Union Island where a dawn uprising was reported. Police Commissioner Benjamin Jackson confirmed that some trouble had occurred on the tiny island, which is part of the Grenadines and located south of here. Jackson said he did not know what the exact situation was, but he confirmed the dispatch of security forces. According to previous unofficial reports, unidentified troops occupied Ashton airport and the police station on Union Island following a shootout. St Vincent and the Grenadines gained independence on 27 October, and 2 days ago Prime Minister Milton Cato led his St Vincent Labor Party (LP) to a landslide victory in the general elections. The LP won 11 of the 13 seats in Parliament.

Cato Appeals for Help

FL071548 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Dec 79 FL

[Text] Prime Minister Milton Cato of St Vincent and the Grenadines today called on Barbados, Britain and the United States for military assistance in the face of an armed uprising [words indistinct] from the small ward island of Union to the south of Kingstown. Mr Cato's appeal for help followed the dispatch of local security forces from St Vincent as the crisis developed 2 days after [words indistinct] party to an overwhelming victory. Police and other security personnel were on full alert and the island [state] airport [was under] heavy guard. Early reports had indicated that the airport in [word indistinct] had been taken over by unidentified troops. Prime Minister Cato has so far made no public statement, but he is said to be directing operations from his home. Trouble in the small island with known pockets of dissidents was confirmed by Police Commissioner (Benjamin Jackson) who disclosed that men were being rushed there from the mainland.

Emergency Cabinet Sworn In

FL071815 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1730 GMT 7 Dec 79 FL

[Excerpts] An emergency cabinet under Prime Minister Milton Cato is being sworn in today in St Vincent to deal with the crisis of Union Island [words indistinct] broke out this morning. A group of armed men said to number about 30 seized the Union Island airport and police station early today after some shooting. Contact between St Vincent and (?Union), 38 miles off the south coast, was broken but there is no word yet of any casualties. St Vincent rushed three planeloads of heavily armed policemen into the Grenadines in a bid to quell the uprising. A spokesman said that the old cabinet will be re-formed to facilitate government action on the Union Island situation.

Rebels Shoot at Police

FL071847 Kingston Domestic Service in English 1830 GMT 7 Dec 79 FL

[Text] Rioters on the tiny Union Island, about 30 miles from St Vincent, shot at a small aircraft carrying policemen on a crisis mission to quell their uprising.

Police sources in St Vincent said the aircraft overflew Union on its way to neighboring Prune Island, 400 yards away from where the police will be attempting a landing on Union by boat.

The St Vincent Government of Prime Minister Milton Cato sent three small aircraft with policemen totalling about 40 after reports reached St Vincent this morning that a group of armed rebels had seized the airport and police station on the ward island of Union. An emergency cabinet under Prime Minister Milton Cato is being sworn in Italy in St Vincent to deal with the crisis in Union Island.

Cato Requests Military Aid

PA071916 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1808 GMT 7 Dec 79 PA

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Cato asked for military aid from the Government of Barbados and the representatives of Great Britain and the United States in Bridgetown, the capital of Barbados. The crisis occurred prior to the forming of a cabinet following an overwhelming victory by Cato's Labor Party in the general elections on Wednesday. A spokesman said the old cabinet will be reinstated to permit the government to react to the emergency. Government sources in Bridgetown acknowledged Cato's call and Prime Minister Tom Adams and his security advisors met at noon to discuss the situation.

A police spokesman said although information from the island is sparse, the chief of the rebels is believed to be a man called "Bumba" who has sporadically intimidated some of Union's 4,000 inhabitants ever since he returned from New York some years ago. An informed source said "Bumba" represents "power and hunger," and he hopes to control the island. He is not known to have any political affiliation.

Until today's uprising by an unidentified group, Union Island was a peaceful place with some attraction for tourists. Hundreds of people are employed in the exploitation of marine resources such as fishing for turtles, crabs and snails.

The island is administered from Kingstown. Union and the other Grenadines linked to St Vincent have a single representative in the 13-seat Parliament in Kingstown. The local government, which at the time was under British control, bought the island 52 years ago and resold it to the inhabitants in lots.

Government Regains Control

PA080405 Paris AFP in Spanish 0337 GMT 8 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Kingstown, St Vincent, 7 Dec (AFP)--A revolt by (?20) armed men who yesterday seized control of Union Island, in the Grenadines, has been smashed by the Government of St Vincent, Police Chief Benjamin Jackson announced tonight. Jackson did not state whether recovery of control by the government was bloodless but he did say that most of the rebels were arrested. In the wake of the revolt, a state of emergency and a curfew was decreed in St Vincent and the Grenadines, which obtained independence from the British crown on 27 October. Police from Barbados, which came in reply to a request for help by St Vincent Prime Minister Milton Cato, were patrolling the streets of Kingstown.

Ten states and territories of the Caribbean tonight expressed condemnation of the revolt and offered support for Cato's Labor government. With less than 10 square km and a population of 4,000, Union Island is a short distance from [words indistinct] administered by the revolutionary regime of the Peoples Republic of Grenada [as received], located between St Vincent and Venezuela. Nevertheless, a Grenada Government spokesman stressed that his country was absolutely not involved in this revolt. The St Vincent Army only has 100 men and women. A detachment was dispatched early this morning to fight the rebels, but the latter blocked the landing of the plane that was carrying them and they had to withdraw to [word indistinct]. The causes of the revolt were unknown as well as the identity of the rebels, but rumors insist it was a secession attempt. Prime Minister Cato had requested military aid from the United States, Great Britain and Barbados.

State of Emergency Declared

FL081345 Nassau Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 8 Dec 79 FL

[Text] St Vincent and the Grenadines are reported quiet this morning following yesterday's declaration of a state of emergency in that newly independent Caribbean country. The prime minister of St Vincent, Mr Milton Cato, announced the state of emergency and the imposition of a dusk-to-dawn curfew following yesterday's armed takeover of Union Island in the Grenadines by dissident forces.

Rastas Sect Believed Responsible

PA092354 Paris AFP in Spanish 2222 GMT 9 Dec 79 PA

[Text] Kingstown, 9 Dec (AFP)--Friday's quelled rebellion on the island against the Government of St Vincent headed by Prime Minister Milton Cato was led by a sect of followers of the late Ethiopian Emperor Haile Selassie known as Rastas, official sources reported here today. The sources added that the prime minister of St Vincent has been meeting with other heads of state of the Caribbean Commonwealth islands to discuss the antigovernment activities of this sect.

It has been learned that 29 followers of the Rastas were arrested after the rebellion was brought under control and it has been officially confirmed that one civilian and one policeman died during the clash that broke out when the rebels occupied the police headquarters and the airport of Union Island, which is part of St Vincent.

The antigovernment activities of the Rastas have caused incidents in Guyana, Trinidad-Tobago, Grenada and Jamaica.

The state of emergency decreed across the territory of the island of St Vincent could be lifted within the next 72 hours.

BURNHAM REAFFIRMS SUPPORT FOR PALESTINIAN STRUGGLE

FL071630 Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 29 Nov 79 p 1 FL

[Text] Prime Minister Forbes Burnham yesterday reaffirmed the unflinching support of Guyana for the legitimate struggle being waged by the Palestinian people under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, which he described as "their sole and legitimate representative for the recovery of their usurped national rights."

In a message on the occasion of the anniversary of the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian peoples, the prime minister said:

"On the occasion of the anniversary of the international day of solidarity with the Palestinian people, I wish to reaffirm the active solidarity of the government and people of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana with the Palestinian people--a people who have for the past three decades waged an heroic struggle for the restoration of their inalienable national rights.

"It is one of the sad ironies of the contemporary world which has seen the retreat of colonialism and the rise of independent nation states, that a whole generation of Arab people has been denied their patrimony and forced to exist as refugees, many of them in their own country.

"In the current circumstances it is imperative that the international community should intensify its efforts to reach urgently a just and lasting solution to the question of Palestine. Fraught as it is with the potential for causing global conflagration, such a solution must encompass the complete withdrawal of Israel from all Arab lands occupied since June, 1967. The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination including the right to establish an independent state in Palestinine, and the acknowledgement of the right of every state in the region, to live within mutually recognised borders.

"I reaffirm the unflinching support of Guyana for the legitimate struggle being waged by the Palestinian people under the leadership of Palestine Liberation Organisation, their sole and legitimate representative, for the recovery of their usurped national rights.

"The Government of Guyana applauds the success of the committee on the exercise of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people in securing every increasing support among the international community for the Palestinian cause."

GOVERNMENT OWES $74.4 MILLION IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE

FL061625 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 3 Dec 79 p 1 FL

[Excerpt] Georgetown, Guyana, Dec. 2 (CANA)--Prime Minister Forbes Burnham has disclosed that Guyana owes some 190 million dollars (US$74.4 million) in foreign exchange, and the external reserves are down to where "we have only three or four weeks of importation of things."

His disclosure during an address at an interior stone quarrying site, was reported today in the government owned CHRONICLE newspaper.

The report did not elaborate but it quoted the prime minister as saying that what the country needs is production but this cannot take place without discipline.